text books etc. at the school stage. At the national level Naional Council of Educational Research & Training has framed model curriculum, syllabi and text books, which the State Govts are encouraged to adopt/adapt.

Topics in the field of astronomy have been included in the syllabus recommended for the upper primary and secondary stages of school education by N.C.E.R.T. The syllabi have been revised appropriately under the National Policy of Education, '86.

Technical collaboration for manufacturing high speed carriages

169. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Kingdom has offered technical collaboration for manufacturing high speed carriages in the Kapurthala coach factory in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details of the offer and the reasons for going for technical collaboration when the Integral Coach Factory has tbe necessary know-how and expertise in the mannufacture of high speed coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) In the global tender floated for this purpose several reputed manufacturers abroad participated and among them is a U.K. firm:

(b) This import represents state-of-the art technology design not available idigenously. It is expected to provide several advanced features, such as light weight design, never suspension, advanced braking systems, higher speed potential, corrosion prevention and passenger comfort.

This import would help establish manufacture of such modern coaches in the Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala and later in the Integral Coach Factory, Madras.

This tender is still under consideration and the details thereof would be known after its finalisation.

New Incentives/Disincentives on Family Planning

170. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any new steps in regard to family planning programme;

(b) whether it is fact that the steps that have been taken so far have failed to reach the target; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration to offer a packet of dis-incentives alongwith incentives to achieve small family norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) For effective functioning of the Family Welfare Programme, the Family Welfare programme is constantly reviewed. No major change in the Strategy is contemplated at present.

(b) Although reduction in birth rate over the years has fallen short of plan targets, the Programme has made an impact on the total fertility rate which has declined form 6.8. to 4.5 Birth rate has also declined from 41 to 32.4. The infant mortality rate has come down to 96 per thousand from 139 in 1972. The Couple Protection Rate has risen to 38.0 per cent.. The programme has averted over 85 million births. There is almost universal awareness of the programme in both urban and rural areas.

(c) No fresh incentives/disincentives are contemplated at present.